

CLEAN VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

November 9, 2001

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 5, 9, 11, 12, 18, 22, 26, 29, 31 and 35 as follows:

*P1*

1. (Amended) A mower head comprising:  
a deck having at least three sides and at least  
one side wall depending from said deck;  
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to  
5 said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said  
deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said  
blade; and  
a guard assembly comprising:  
an actuating member mounted on said deck,  
10 a guard attached to said actuating member  
and pivotally attached to said deck along two of said at  
least three sides of said deck, and  
a flap depending from said guard and  
movable in relation to said guard, said flap being  
15 oriented in a plane spaced from a plane of said guard.

*P2*

5. (Twice Amended) The mower head of claim 4  
wherein two of said deck at least three sides are normal  
to each other and a third of said at least three sides is  
positioned at an obtuse angle in relation to said two of  
5 said deck at least three sides.

*P3*

9. (Amended) A mower head comprising:  
a deck having at least three sides;  
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to  
said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said  
5 deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said

blade; and

a guard assembly comprising:

an actuating member mounted on said deck,  
a hinge extending between two of said at  
least three sides of said deck,

10 a guard attached to said actuating member  
and pivotally attached to said deck via said hinge, and  
a flap which depends from said guard and is  
movable in relation to said guard, said flap being  
15 oriented in a plane spaced from a plane of said guard.

11. (Amended) The mower head of claim 9 wherein one  
of said at least three sides comprises a plurality of  
angled sections.

12. (Amended) The mower head of claim 11 wherein  
said guard includes a first wall which comprises a  
plurality of angled sections which matingly interconnect  
with said angled sections of said one of at least three  
5 sides and a second wall which comprises a plurality of  
angled sections.

18. (Twice Amended) A mower head comprising:

a deck comprising:

at least four sides, and

5 three side walls, one depending from each  
of three of said at least four sides, wherein two of said  
three side walls are rigid;

at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to  
said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said  
deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said  
blade; and

a guard assembly comprising:

an actuating member mounted on said deck,

*P5* 5 a hinge extending between two of said at least four sides of said deck,

a guard attached to said actuating member and pivotally attached to said deck via said hinge, and a flap which depends from said guard and is movable in relation to said guard, said flap being oriented in a plane spaced apart from a plane of said guard.

*P6* 5 22. (Amended) The mower head of claim 21 wherein said guard includes a first wall which comprises a plurality of angled sections which matingly interconnect with said angled sections of one of said at least four sides and a second wall which comprises a plurality of angled sections.

*P7* 10 26. (Amended) A mower head comprising:  
a deck having at least three sides;  
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said blade; and  
a guard assembly comprising:  
an actuating member mounted on said deck;  
a guard pivotally attached to said deck at an obtuse angle in relation to sides of said deck which are adjacent opposed ends of said guard, said guard including a first wall which comprises an approximately straight edge and a second wall which comprises a plurality of angled sections, and  
15 a flap which depends from said guard and is oriented in a plane spaced apart from the plane of said guard.

*P8* 29. (Amended) The mower head of claim 26 wherein two

*BP*  
of said deck at least three sides are normal to each other and a third of said deck at least three sides is positioned at an obtuse angle in relation to said two of 5 said at least three sides.

*BG*  
31. (Amended) A mower head comprising:  
a deck having at least three sides;  
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to  
said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said  
deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said  
blade;  
a guard assembly comprising:  
a hinge extending between two of said at  
least three sides of said deck,  
10 a guard pivotally attached to said deck via  
said hinge;  
a holding member for holding said guard in  
one rotational position in relation to said deck; and  
a flap extending from said guard and  
15 movable in relation to said guard, said flap being  
oriented in a plane spaced apart from a plane of said  
guard.

*B10*  
35. (Amended) A mower head comprising:  
a deck comprising at least four sides,  
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to  
said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said  
deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said  
blade;  
a guard assembly comprising:  
a hinge mounted on said deck, said hinge  
extending at an obtuse angle in relation to sides of said  
10 deck adjacent opposed ends of said hinge,  
a guard pivotally attached to said deck via  
said hinge;

15 a flap extending from said guard and is  
movable with respect to said guard, said flap being  
oriented in a plane spaced apart from a plane of said  
guard; and,

20 a linkage assembly for pivoting said guard  
in relation to said deck, a first portion of said linkage  
assembly being mounted to said guard and a second portion  
of said linkage assembly being mounted to said deck.

Please add new claims 38-40 as follows:

38. The mower head of claim 1, wherein said flap is  
a resilient, one-piece flap.

39. The mower head of claim 9, wherein said flap is  
a resilient, one-piece flap.

40. the mower head of claim 18, wherein said flap is  
a resilient, one-piece flap.